

Message Text

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43

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 EB-11 FSE-00 RSR-01 /049 W

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R 101327Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9721

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

USCINCNAVEUR LONDON ENG

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GE

UNCLAS ROME 6569

E.E. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, IT

SUBJECT: CURRENCY OF PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR MILITARY PROCUREMENT
IN ITALY

PASS TREASURY FOR COX AND DOD FOR CNO, CSA AND CSAF

1. PRESENT U.S. MILITARY DIRECTIVES PROHIBIT MILITARY FORCES
IN ITALY FROM MAKING PAYMENTS IN DOLLARS, (E.G., U.S. TREASURY
CHECKS) OF BILLS ORIGINATING IN ITALY. POLICY REQUIRING PAYMENTS
IN LIRE IS BELIEVED TO STEM FROM EXCESS LIRE POSITION OF U.S.
IN EARLY FIFTIES.

2. U.S. NAVY REPS IN ITALY HAVE REQUESTED AUTHORITY TO UTILIZE
U.S. TREASURY CHECKS TO FACILITATE PAYMENTS, REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE
PROCESSING WORKLOAD AND TO PRESERVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ITALIAN
NATIONALS. SITUATION ARISES FROM FACT THAT GOODS ORDERED IN
ITALY ARE BEING DELIVERED TO NAVY SHIPS IN VARIOUS PORTS THROUGHOUT
THE MEDITERRANEAN.
SINCE PAYMENT IS REQUIRED IN NATIONAL CURRENCY, BILLS ARE FOR-
WARDED TO NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, NAPLES, ITALY, FOR PROCESSING AND
PAYMENT. THIS ADMINISTRATIVE WORKLOAD IS INCREASED BECAUSE OF NEED
FOR ADDITIONAL INFO IN MANY CASES AND QUERIES RESULTING FROM
INHERENT DELAY OF PAYMENTS. AGGRAVATING THIS SITUATION IS
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FLUCTUATION OF EXCHANGE RATES. BOTH ARMY AND AIR FORCE

DQD IN ITALY ALSO DESIRE AUTHORITY TO UTILIZE U.S. TREASURY CHECKS FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS. U.S. CINCEUR SUPPORTS CHANGE.

3. MATTER HAS BEEN REVIEWED WITHIN U.S. MISSION AND CHECKED OUT WITH ITALIAN EXCHANGE CONTROL AUTHORITIES WHO SEE NO NEED FOR CONTINUATION OF POLICY OF PAYMENT IN LIRE. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO MILITARY FORCES IN ITALY UTILIZING EITHER LOCAL CURRENCY OR U.S. TREASURY CHECKS FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS ORIGINATING IN ITALY. YOUR VIEWS ON THIS MATTER WOULD BE APPRECIATED. ASSUMING YOUR CONCURRENCE, WE REQUEST THAT U.S. MILITARY COMMANDS MODIFY EXISTING DIRECTIVES ACCORDINGLY. VOLPE

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